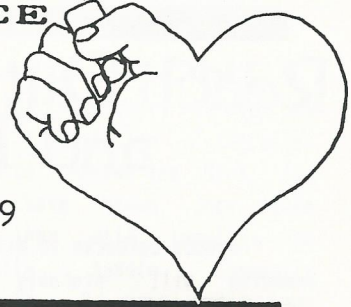


Community Charge

ISSUE #9

JUNE 1 TO 15



POLICE SILENCE LAWS

The Metropolitan Toronto Police Association (MTPA) is suing Dudley Laws, a member of the Black Action Defence Committee (BADC), for \$50,000 due to statements he made around the shootings and murder of several blacks by the police. The statement he made called the Toronto police "the most brutal and murderous in North America". Naturally the police do not like having anyone expose them for what they are.

The MTPA are also now trying to silence Roy Williams, a Police Commissioner who supported Dudley Laws. They are threatening job action against him. Williams publicly had asked people to contribute to Laws' defence fund. This is what got under the cops skin. Art Lymer, the head of the MTPA said that they would consider a form of job action if the Police Services Board did not distance itself from Williams statements. Although Williams has taken this positive stand, we would like to note that he has a shady past as owner of several run-down boarding houses, some of which have been known to be fire-traps. This in no way relates to the integrity of Dudley Laws. *con't pg. 3*

Closing the Doors

Refugees fleeing to Canada from oppression in their own countries may find it much harder to gain access into the country. Tighter restrictions brought in under bills C-55 and C-84 may soon come into effect. The legislation brought in, in 1989 had two supposed purposes; first to stream-line the Refugee Determination System, which is already back-logged with thousands of cases, and secondly to bring about the perception to many would-be refugee claimants, that Canada

does not have an open-door immigration policy.

Although the legislation has been around for two years, its application has not been fully implemented, but many feel that restrictive measures will begin to come in, with the growing number of refugee claimants. This worries many refugee support groups, law associations and the Canadian Council of Churches who all fight for refugee's rights.

Government restrictions on refugee claimants began long

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Illustration by Ruth Taylor



Reach Out and Tap Someone

Proposed cutbacks in military spending will probably have little effect on Canada's secret 'spying' agency the Canadian Security Establishment (CSE). The CSE with its estimated \$25 million dollar budget and staff of 2,000 rivals its counterpart the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), which has the budget of \$213 million.

The CSE is part of an information gathering network which includes sister agencies in the U.S., Britain and Australia. Some may be familiar with its American counterpart the National Security Agency (NSA).

With the help of super-computers and 'spy' satellites from the NSA, the CSE and other network members have the capacity to monitor all telephone calls, facsimile, telex, data-transmission and radio transmissions coming in and out of the country. The super-computers sift through billions of bits of data, scanning for key words, names or phrases.

Although this may sound like a breach of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, it is all done legally. The information is gathered outside the country thus circumventing Canadian law. The NSA and other member agencies monitors private communications entering or leaving Canada. In turn, the CSE monitors communications from other member countries. The information is then shared amongst all four members.

Although the CSE has no clear mandate, its stated purpose is to protect classified government information, gather signal intelligence on the private (we may want to re-define private) international communications of citizens, and collect foreign intelligence from other countries. The information can then be accessed by such 'customers' as the military, CSIS, the Department of External Affairs and the RCMP. The CSE has also began files on Canadian citizens and landed immigrants of interest to them. The public does not have access to these files for 'security' reasons. Therefore the CSE can be gathering information about you and I, and we will never be allowed to see it.



Ethnic communities may be a major target of the CSE program, since the agency specifically monitors international transmissions. Stated a source to the Globe and Mail, "the PLO talk on the phone. If it involves Canada, it comes back to us. It's the same with the Sikhs [involved in terrorism]. They are on the

RELIABLY SEXIST

Scarborough- Reliable Bookbinders Ltd. has found a way to cut it's expenses during the recession and to be more competitive in a free trade market. Unfortunately, women have once again taken the brunt of such 'belt-tightening' initiatives, with underpaid work and a continued flagrant sexism from their employer. The company is putting a freeze on all male employee wages who are currently receiving \$20.19/hour, while women who are paid \$14.15/-hour will received a pay slash of \$4/hour. Automation has meant that the women's jobs requires less skill than in the past, so the proposed wage cuts, "put their wages in line with what the job deserves" said co-owner David Johnson.

The company, as do most factories, have a defined female/-male job classification (unwritten of course), of which the men operate and prepare bookbinding machinery and the women feed paper into the machines. Even though the women feel their work is much harder then their male counterparts, the company stands firm to it's new proposed wages. On May 22nd, after the workers refused to except wage freeze/cuts and threatened a strike. Reliable Bookbinders Ltd. responded by locking out all 37 workers, who were replaced by non-union scabs.

phone to and from India all the time."

Although collected information is only shared amongst the four contributing countries, there is little doubt that some information

before bills C-55 and C-84 were passed. In 1987, Canada abolished the B-1 list of dangerous countries, such as Chile and El Salvador. The list and accompanying legislation gave immediate refugee status to those fleeing persecution in those countries. Prior to this, legislation was brought in requiring refugees to produce visas upon entry into the country. A practice which is ridiculous considering those who are fleeing political repression could never go to their government and gain a visa.

Such measures were brought in to deter refugees from considering Canada as a prospective home. Bill C-84, the Refugee Deterrents and Detentions Act follows along the same line. The bill states that it is an offence to organize refugees to come to Canada. This would include anybody who helped a refugee gain entry into the country, ie. obtaining visas etc... This of course would bring a lot of restrictions on refugee support groups who do a lot of good work helping refugees resettle.

Bill C-55 introduces the Safe Third Country concept, another piece of legislation that can be used to limit the number of refugees entering the country. The safe Third Country concept states that if a refugee claimant is currently stopped over in a supposed 'safe' third country, the individual can not apply for refugee status in Canada. This of course makes the assumption that such 'safe' countries would have 'fair' immigration policies,

which would not deport refugees fleeing from persecution. There is no doubt that the U.S. would be on Canada's 'safe' country list. The U.S. is a destination for thousands of Central Americans seeking refuge. Unfortunately, the U.S. rejects 96% of refugee claims from individuals fleeing El Salvador and Guatemala. This only supplements the fact that the U.S. supports these dictatorial regimes both financially and militarily. These refugees would again be refused status in Canada because of the third country clause.

One reason this new legislation has been brought in, is to help stream-line the Refugee Determination System, by removing the backlog of cases. However much of the backlog is due to one very positive aspect of the system, the right to an oral hearing. In 1985, a landmark decision was made in the Supreme Court in the case of Re-Singh, ruling that it was unconstitutional for a refugee to be judged entry by written examination alone. Instead the ruling allowed refugees the right to have an in-person presentation to state their case in front of a committee. The program proved successful because it allowed many who were fleeing persecution to state their case and gain much easier access into the country. Unfortunately this has created a backlog of cases waiting for hearings, a problem that must be addressed.

The government's plans with bills C-55 and C-84 is to simply restrict the number of refugees, rather than putting an effort to

The reaction of the cops has lead a coalition of concerned groups to condemn the MTPA. The police have shown once again that they will legally and illegally hassle community activists. By suing Dudley Laws they force groups like BADC, to use funding on lawyers and defence campaigns, instead of educational and community work.

To help out Dudley Laws, donations can be sent, payable to : The Dudley Laws Defence Fund, 393 Vaughan Rd., Toronto Ont., M6C 2N8 or for more information call (416) 656-2232 or (416) 653-3733



making the Refugee Determination System more efficient.

Refugee support groups see these measures as a move by the government to gain more control over who gets in. This would mean the difference between poor workers fleeing from repression in El Salvador or rich businessmen from Hong Kong gaining access into the country as landed immigrants.

Bill C-55 and C-84 although in effect for more than two years, has done little to remove the cases on backlog, but as well the restrictive measures have not come into full effect. In the case of C-84 the list of 'safe' countries has not yet been

CSE Con't

mation will be passed on to other governments. One need not stretch their imagination, to believe that the state of Israel would love information on correspondence between Palestinians. On the flip-side, Israel would probably have few problems sharing information on Palestinians moving to Canada.

This may have dangerous consequences. For example, in countries like Guatemala, anyone who organizes a union or human rights group is branded a 'terrorist'. These labels would now follow an individual anywhere they went.

Although the CSE is currently allied with only four member countries, it may soon be implemented into the more extensive TREVI (Terrorism, Radicalism, Extremism, Violence, International) program which includes most members of the European Community (EC). The TREVI program was formed in 1976 to combat 'terrorism' in Europe in order to create a 'safe' environment for business within the EC. The program was designed to target 'radical' movements and non-European immigrants who may jeopardize this. Canada and the U.S. are now members of TREVI.

The trend in global security may reflect the important need for maintaining a 'safe' business environment, to accommodate the needs of global capital. The policies of 'sovereign' nations will become more closely aligned with these global interests, be them starvation wages in the Third World or

massive restructuring in advanced capitalist countries; for example, the formation of European Economic Community or the Canada/U.S. free trade deal. Resistance to these global policies must be kept in check. Hence the need for agencies like the CSE or even more extensive programs like TREVI.

Refugees

Con't

defined. But the apparatus is in place and many worry that such restrictive measures will begin in due time.

This has strong ramifications to the El Salvadoran and Guatemalan communities in Hamilton which continue to grow. Many in these communities have friends and family who may one day try to come to this country. They will be the one's who will face closed doors.

In the next issue of Community Charge, we will examine the human cost of this legislation.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sunday, June 23- A benefit Bar-BQ will be held at 177 Edgemont St., Hamilton for Trucks To Nicaragua. There will be food, music and an auction. it begins at 4:30 P.M. Adults \$10, Students \$5 and free for children under 7.

June 27- Free Barter Shop in front of the Toronto Stock Exchange, to celebrate Emma Goldman's (Red Emma) birthday. For more information contact EarthFirst at 1-416-588-2099.

June 28,29,30, July 1- Earthsong. A celebration of culture, past and present. Dundurn Park 4:00 P.M -10:30 P.M June 28, 12:00 P.M. -10:30 P.M. June 29,30, July 1



COMMUNITY CHARGE covers local and international news from an anti-statist perspective. If you wish to contribute too, or receive this newsletter, please send an SASE to:

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